

SENATE BILL 3151

By Finney L

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50,  
Chapter 7, relative to qualifying for unemployment  
benefits.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-7-302(b), is amended by adding  
the following language as a new subdivision:

(5) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter to the contrary,  
no otherwise eligible individual shall be denied benefits because the individual  
left work or was discharged due to circumstances resulting from the individual  
being a victim of a domestic violence offense that satisfies the elements of §§ 40-  
14-109(a)(2) and (a)(3). No employer's account shall be charged for the  
payment of benefits to an individual who left work due to circumstances resulting  
from the individual being a victim of domestic violence. For purposes of this  
subdivision, an individual shall be treated as a victim of domestic violence if the  
individual is able to provide one (1) or more of the following:

(A) A restraining order or other documentation of equitable relief  
issued by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(B) A police record documenting the domestic violence;

(C) Documentation that the perpetrator of the domestic violence  
has been convicted of one (1) or more offenses that meet the elements of  
§§ 40-14-109(a)(2) and (a)(3);

(D) Medical documentation of the domestic violence;

(E) Certification from the director of a family violence shelter, established pursuant to title 71, chapter 6, part 2, that the individual is a victim of domestic violence; or

(F) Other documentation or certification of the domestic violence provided by a social worker, member of the clergy, shelter worker or other professional who has assisted the individual in dealing with the domestic violence. No evidence of domestic violence experienced by an individual, including the individual's statement and corroborating evidence, shall be disclosed by the department unless consent for disclosure is given by the individual.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it